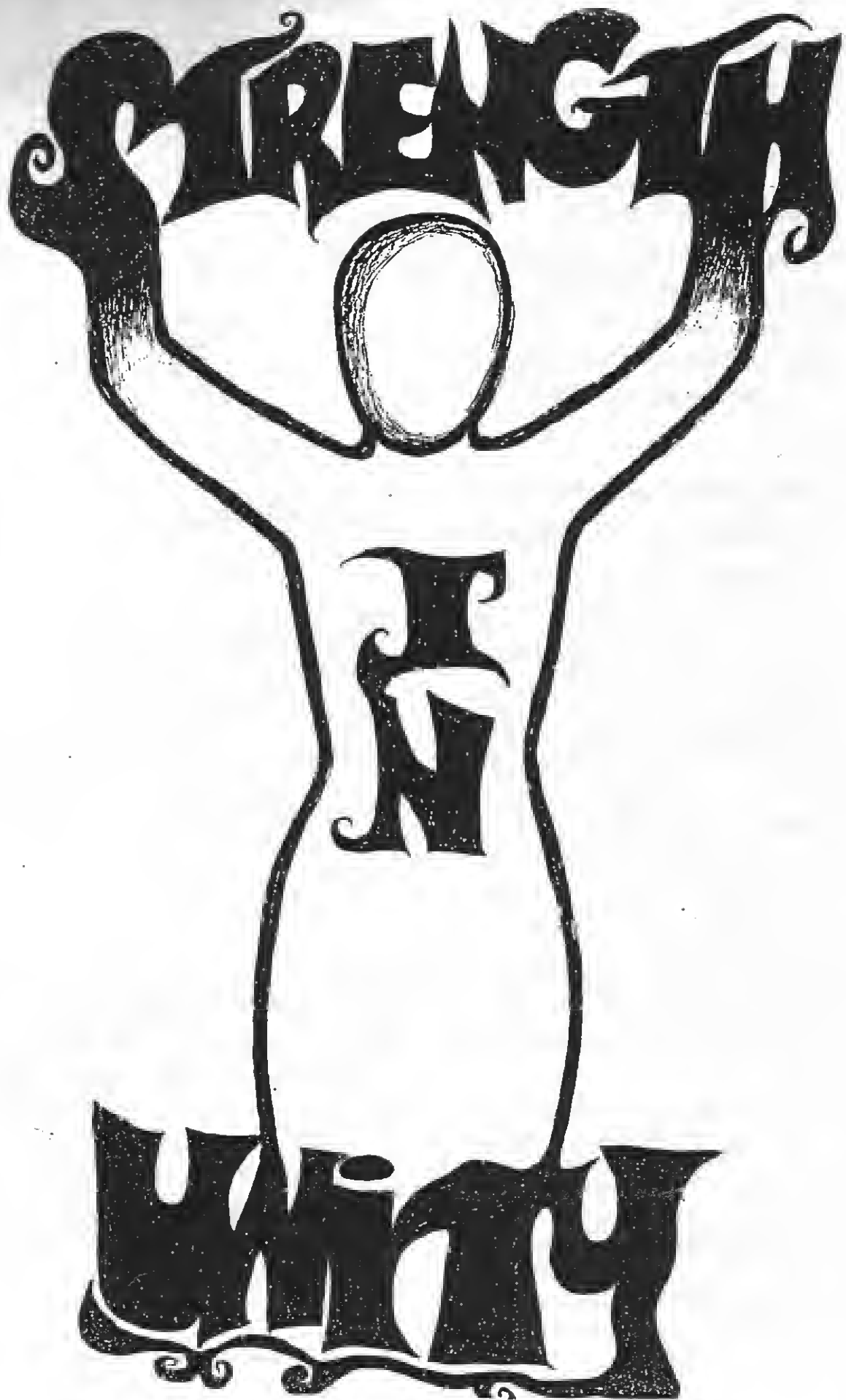


Aotearoa Youth Network



Number 4, September 1994

Apologies:

Sorry for being late with this issue - we promise that the October issue will be out in October! We were very busy with organising the fees protest, and recovering from being attacked by the Police.

Also, sorry for any lack of print quality - AYN is an "amateur" newsletter, and we are working on things, and learning as we go. We hope the spelling is better this time!

The Development of the Aotearoa Youth Network

The AYN has been in existence for just a few months. In that time, we have moved ahead at an alarming rate!! The enthusiasm of those in the network and the huge response from those who have contacted us has been amazing - and a bit frightening at times. This isn't because we don't want to grow, but because of how fast it is happening. The growth of AYN has given me faith that now is the time to build a real movement for change in this country, and internationally as well. We have been contacted by young people and organisations from all over the country. Some include the Campus Alliance, the National Council of Women, and the Student Environmental Action Network. Hopefully we have touched a few people, changed the consciousness of a few people, and inspired a few people.

This is the fourth AYN newsletter. Each time we put out an issue, it takes a lot of time, and money too. I don't want to talk about \$\$, but we are going to have to charge sub's, because we simply don't have enough (who does!). Thanks to all those who have donated money - and for those who haven't, could you please, please spare something. If you can't, at least let us know that, and we will continue to send you newsletters.

Keep up your letters - it gives those putting the newsletters together the inspiration to keep going. I don't think that any of us realised just how big a job AYN would be, and how enjoyable it is!

AYN reflects a growing sense of purpose and unity amongst youth in Aotearoa. Keep your movements going, and take strength from the fact that we are with you!!

Joss Debreceeny

Please Note This!!

Subscription rates:

\$9 Unwaged

\$18 Waged

\$25 Organisations

\$50 Institutions (Schools, etc.)

(If you cannot afford these, let us know so that we can continue sending you AYN.)

The AYN Newsletter is the publication of the Aotearoa Youth Network. The articles or opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of any other member of the Network, or of the collective which produces the Newsletter, or of any associated group.

Dear AYN,

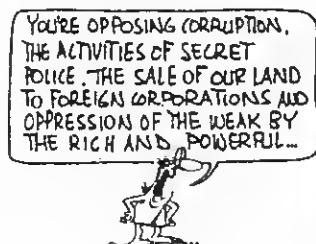
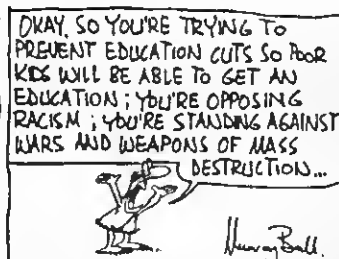
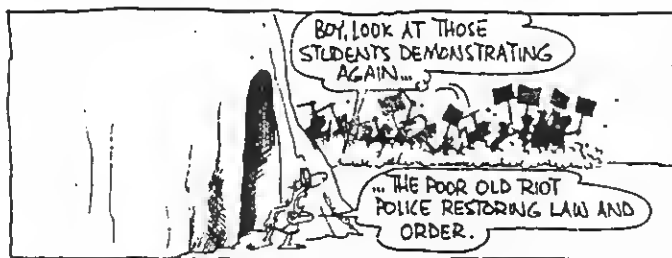
As a Californian studying in your fine country for the year, I've had the strange opportunity to take a more in depth, objective look at the US and it's influences. Also, I just murdered a gnat, and in light of recent realisations, I'm ashamed at what this reflects about myself. This gnat this brings me to the point of this letter, which may be the insidious and subtle nature of the monster which many of us wish to fight and overcome. The scary thing is that the institutional monsters often work from within ourselves. Hopefully some of these unloadings will find a sympathetic ear, and aid in understanding.

The film The Panama Deception was viewed this evening at the University of Waikato. To say the least, it wrenched and wracked my world. I was revealed a darned hypocrite, in the light of the extent to which the US and perhaps the Western Way has shaped and moulded my mind, and thus my world. To rail against injustice and the loss of human dignity, only to kill a gnat in the next breath, is to me symptomatic of some deep problems. A tenuous connection perhaps, but as I continue, it may be seen that even the smallest thing may have been informed or controlled by this hated monster.

I still remember the context in which I first heard of The Panama Deception, as a first year Uni. student thoroughly disgusted with the ways, ideal and goals of America at large, and more particularly the lives

humans led, or don't lead, in Southern California. The hypocrisy and predominant ideologies of the country, both it's leaders and citizens, was early on understood, in a childish reactionary sort of way. But for all of the profound distaste I had for the conditions of life in LA, and uneasiness at the cultures direction and priorities, I still landed at U.C.S.B., with a head full of worries, dreams, goals and expectations. The nature of the institutions and their far reaching implications had yet to permeate through my angst and inner developing. Until the violent intrusion of the vile game in the Gulf brought to U.C.S.B. and the worlds attention, the nature and realities behind the war. Actually, a troubling memory which struck deep and quick at the time, was a group of us watching the first missiles fall on Bagdad, live on CNN. People had been camped out in front of the telly for days, in the expectation of violence, and as the first hush and horror had passed, a fellow applauded, a few grunted appreciation, "Damn Arah's", and off for some brews. This complete disregard for human life, non-American that is, is TERRIBLY WORRYING, and I must admit, I did not understand the finality and nature of the fragility of LIFE until a car I was in crumpled in front of my face. Death then, is very real. I saw it as a positive, almost welcome, experience. But when death is served upon a people unwillingly, in the context of outrageous lies and audacious claims, then one sees the evil that my country has committed, and our society has condoned.

Many visible marches and protests followed the outbreak of the war on the 28th of January, with some very organised actions taking place, with the first weeks drawing thousands to informational rallies and "teach ins", and I took part out of a sense of responsibility and anger. But my directed actions dwindled off in enthusiasm and commitment, along with the majority of students, and the general populace. Amazing that, from rallies drawing thousands on campus, to nary a squeak of visible dissent, within 2 months. Well, the year saw much exploration personally, and with the blessed aid of psychedelic's, momentous meetings, growing understanding and the Grateful Dead, my awareness grew and flew. Much of this involved my sense of what was real, as all of the old constructions of reality fell away. Old ideas of human possibilities, which were small and limited, were demolished as I saw what true communication and acceptance was, and what love, understanding and joy people may bring to one another. These may sound like obvious things, but understand that often one can go through days or years with little real communication, no smiles or embraces, no appreciation of suns setting, no delight in another person's fineness. Well, one of the



gems that the Grateful Dead experience had given, was the meeting of people whose lives were in complete contradiction to all that I had been brought up to believe in. I feel that this may have some relevance to New Zealanders, and all, in the fact that this nurturing culture is becoming a predominant force in the world. Quite truly terrifying. Some deadheads that I met, who become examples and teachers, lived on the road, devoid of cumbersome possessions, free from all responsibilities that I held to be important. Namely, University and work, thoughts of career and money, life possibilities and expectations of parents. These were some obvious differences that I noted, but many other things distinguished Jason and Moon from any I had met before. Our first meeting, we talked of things normally ignored, of some things so apparent to them and others, the very malignant nature of our society, the lies perpetuated by the US government, and the nature of the lifestyles of the mass of society. I think that this is when a discrepancy was first noticed between ideals and purported beliefs, and the living experience of those, within my own life. It was easy enough, and is, to point fingers. But to point inwards is a harrowing experience.

A professor at the time struck a similar note in a lecture he gave in the midst of the Gulf War protests. In his Zen Buddhism class, the futility of wanting to overthrow the government of George Bush without first overthrowing one's own individual government, was expressed in the context of changing one's whole conceptions of reality, truth and life, the self examination that Zen and other techniques bring about. I remember that after the lecture I went up to him and asked in response to a remark about detaching oneself from the institutions, and instead of being used by them, to use and utilise them. I wondered whether or not, in the light of the limited and oppressive nature of the university and society in general, should one drop out? A very kind look, and gentle reuff that no, he meant change your conception of the University. See, how much changes when it ceases to be a matter for

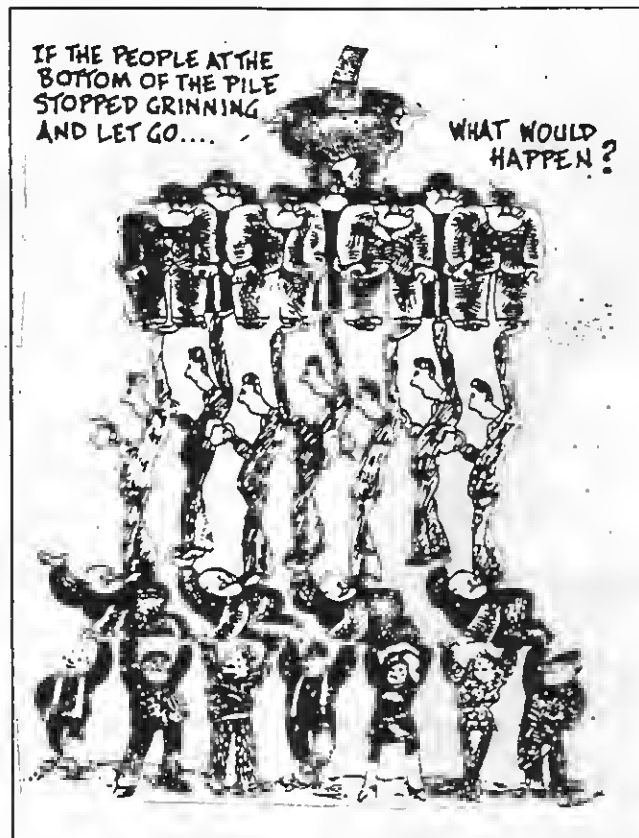
worry about future and personal inadequacy, and instead, to see the university as a possibility to learn, to expand and to gain some tools which will help destroy the ideas and ideologies which poison the institution. Yes, Matthew, it's not the institution itself, but the ideas

and perceptions supporting and feeding the institution. That will create change. This was addressed at a very concrete level, and some were highly offended by his unspoken criticism on the vocality of some demonstrators. But he was speaking on some much deeper things than hanner waving.

Anyways, I began with the feelings that viewing The Panama Deception gave me. Initially, the hard cold truth that I've been a class A hypocrite, even if maybe I haven't realised till now. With all of my voicing of disgust with the "shitstem", with education and contemporary society, with involvement with NORML and spiritually oriented groups, I still had serious attachments with the ideals and structures, which I had been brainwashed with. I

still worried, however lackadaisically and detachedly, about my economic future, my lifestyle still reflected attachments to certain conveniences and "necessities", and most of my thoughts centres around me. Admittedly, these are ingrained deeply, especially our sense of individual self. But it took a viewing of this film to see the very real misery and death which is dripping from our systems hands, to bring home the obvious and undeniable fact of the sinister nature of the monster that we are fighting.

The US Governments actions in Panama and Iraq was marvellously condoned by the general population. Now what drives us to be such ignorant, malignant beings, to idly accept the outrageous deeds done in our name? Ignorance of the factual truths, yes, but as Noam Chomsky says, it's more a preoccupation with frivolous, unnecessary entertainments, that keep our mind off questioning. Wait, you mean that we don't need to worry our asses off about jobs? Or that the neat toaster or CD that I want? But, can I now change the world? I don't have to constantly see the world only in relation to myself? You mean we can be loving to one another, generate love instead of hatred? Those



...and that being said, we have been
 surrounded with certain objects and ideas, by the
 same forces that power and control military actions of
 genocide. Now, how often do we consider death? Oh,
 that's a summer, so that really sucks, us. It's inevitable.
 Often observations or reactions that are curiously
 detached, immemorial, for unless ones faces ones own
 mortality close up, the deaths of others remains very
 abstract, not a matter for changing ones whole life to
 fight against the murder.

A real glimpse at our own death, though, cuts to the
 quick our daily worries, selfish concerns, for is a car
 smashes you tomorrow, what will be worries of the
 future, of money, of me, me, me? The shattering of
 ones illusions about the importance of one's own life,
 of one's problems, or one's priorities. The violent
 government, of one's cultures ignorance, of one's
 societies attitudes and lifelessness.... When all of these
 attachments and identifications are gone, what have we?
 There is YOU, but a new conception of You, and with
 a new sense of self, the question, "how much of
 yourself can you give to wage peace?" takes on a new
 light. It ceases to be a matter of gee, how much time,
 money or energy can I devote to the "cause", and
 now, its how many attachments and brainwashed ideals
 can I shed? To lose this sense of isolated, knowiedgable
 self that is a typical, contemporary westerner. Lose
 those attachments see where and what you truly are,
 and the actions will follow. Can indeed that world be
 saved, if we haven't saved ourselves from its
 upbringing of us?

I walked out of that theatre, deeply worried and
 shamed not so much for what my homeland has
 done, but for the passivity and the extent of my
 hypocrisy. Everyone has their own journey to make,
 with their own gifts, troubles, trails and joys, and in
 this, we may share, and confide in one another, and
 take heart, that as we loosen the shackles that
 oppress, we brighten the world. As we grow, learn,
 and love together. A daunting, uphill battle from some
 perspective's, but slowly and gradually dissolve the
 deeper, more subtle effects of the forces of the dark
 side, and this prospect of peace becomes very real.

A journeyer far from home, yet at home in Aotearoa.

✍

Tadashi Hora.

"AYN is the umbrella group for
 environmental, social, peace, race
 and gender concerns. We are not all
 doing one thing, and the newsletter
 is for communicating and
 networking."

THREE TIMES
 THE HUNGER...

THREE TIMES
 THE POVERTY...

THREE TIMES
 THE PROFIT...

GATT?



IN WALL STREET
 NO-ONE CAN HEAR
 YOU STARVE

Lockwood ventures South

On the 25th of August the Minister of Education, Dr. Lock(us out)wood Smith, ventured down to Dunedin, and again it was during the University holidays. Lockwood's southern appearance was to address to Otago Primary Principals Association on how to budget their 1994 education funds (or lack of).

Thanks to an anonymous tip off, the Education Action Group and several members of the Otago University Students Association (OUSA) managed to organise a small bunch of angry students, armfuls of placards, and a surprise visit to the Abbey Lodge Motel to welcome Lockwood.

Disappointingly, Lockwood initially outsmarted the protesters by arriving an hour before anticipated. However, initiatives were quickly taken and students lined up below the windows where he was speaking to begin (loudly) to show their disapproval of Lockwood and the National Government's education policy. With a loudhailer and angry students' voices students chanted "1,2,3,4, education for the poor, 2,4,6,8, students will retaliate"; "can't pay, Won't pay"; "liar" and numerous other improvised messages. Various reporters who were inside the conference room later told protesters that around 90% of Lockwood's speech could not be heard due to the volume of noise from protesters outside.

During one stage of the demonstration, in clear view of the conference room, a number of students lay in the middle of Castle st., and formed the slogan "NO FEES" with their bodies.

The manager of the motel informed students that the police had been called and were on their way down to disperse them. The Protesters decided to enter the motel and make their presence further felt by meeting the bastard face to face before the police arrived. The manager and staff struggled to keep the students from getting through the glass doors and into the conference room. The protesters succeeded in putting a halt to Lockwood's propaganda speech for a short time, and made him well aware of the contempt that they and many others have for him.

The motel manager threatened protesters that they were all going to be arrested, and tried to keep them inside until the police arrived. The students had their own ideas about that one and quickly found alternative escape routes and reunite with the others outside.

Soon after about a dozen police officers arrived and cleared protesters off the road, ordering them to remain on the pavement. OUSA President Grant Robertson decided that it was time to take over from Lockwood's speech and give on of his own. Over a loudhailer he informed the principals in the meeting that they should not listen to what Lockwood was talking about because it is a

lie, and primary education too is being robbed, with the teacher - pupil ratio increasing and the amount of funds for necessary resources being reduced. Students concluded Grant's speech by joining him in chanting "liar, liar, liar...".

As time passed and Lockwood was due to leave it was decided that the group would have to divide into 2 to cover the possible exit routes that Lockwood could escape through.

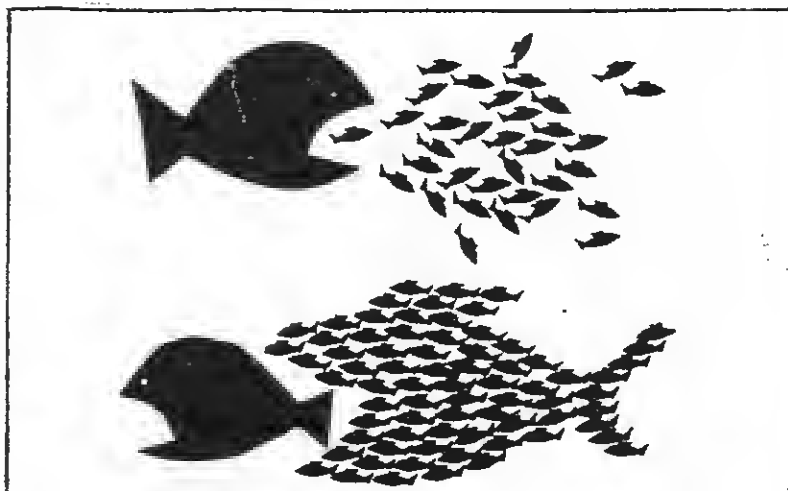
Lockwood opted for the Cumberland St. exit, and was greeted by protesters carrying a large banner (National's Decent Society is Sick!) blocking the car and chanting "Education for the Poor!!". 5 police officers struggled with the small group and finally pushed them aside. Students chased the car for a short distance leaving Lockwood with their angry messages. During this last episode of the protest, police displayed unnecessary and unwarranted behaviour - verbal insults such as "you fucking wankers", and physically body slamming 2 protesters after the Minister had gone.

With Lockwood's departure, it was time to pick up the placards and peacefully head home. But the quiet stroll back was abruptly interrupted by 3 Police cars suddenly pulling up. The manager of Abbey Lodge was glaring from the back seat of one of the cars and began pointing at one student. A police officer arrested Daniel Jolly for trespass and assault. Another protester who had been with Daniel throughout verbally confronted the manager about the assault accusation (NO physical violence occurred at anytime during the protest), and was then arrested by the police for obscene language. During the journey to the Police Station the charge of assault against Daniel was dropped. After a couple of hours both protesters were released, and both may receive diversion.

This student protest may have been small in numbers. However it clearly demonstrates that it need not be the size of the group that gives it strength, but the unity within that group. Students must unite, and together we can make a powerful step forward in making pro-education reform a reality.

✍

Valerie Henderson.



The Costs of Stratford

"Teach your children that the ground beneath our feet is precious. All things are connected. People did not weave the web of life - we are merely a strand in it. What we do to the web, we do to ourselves."

This was one of the final speeches given by Chief Seattle to his people, the North American Indians, last century. And now, it is time we all make sure that people are aware of this concept.

Particularly one group of people - Electricorp managers. For, very shortly, they have every intention of ripping this web to pieces, then standing on it without even considering what the broader consequences of their actions will be.

We all need a gentle reminder of the implications that the Stratford power station will have both locally and long term, globally. For many of us, we need a reminder that "yes, a power station is planned for Stratford". This is because many of us have been swamped with the Ngakawau issue, both the debates and the success. But congratulating ourselves on past achievements will not move us towards future goals, and this goal is quite simple in writing - **NO STRATFORD POWER STATION!**

**We stopped
Ngakawau -
lets stop
Stratford!**

Belching 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the lower atmosphere is akin to throwing oneself off a fifty story building - both are relatively easy to do, but both will no doubt bring dire consequences. Naturally anyone could say "but this is only one power station - it's not as though it is going to kill the world!"

Partly true. Stratford is only one power station, but it is the cumulative effect of global powerstations, vehicle emissions, burning off forests and industrial gas releases that is causing the present trends in global warming. Take an example from the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii, where in 1958 concentrations of CO2 in the atmosphere were 315 parts per million (ppm). In 1988 they measures 350 ppm - an 11%

increase. This is the highest CO2 level recorded in 160,000 years (levels at these dates can be taken from ice cores), showing that human CO2 contributions are becoming increasingly significant (Hothouse Earth, John Gribbin page 92).

Consequently, global temperatures are rising - up by between 0.3 and 0.6 degrees since 1850. Of course, they are extremely small at this early stage, and almost inevent in some localities. But evidence for global warming is overwhelming. Consider, the seven hottest years on record have occurred since 1980. 1990 was the hottest year ever and the 1980's were 0.2 degrees warmer than any other decade since records began (Emergency impacts of Climate Change, Greenpeace International).

The results of such warming? If present trends continue, we can see a drastic change in climatic activity. As more water evaporates from increased temperatures, places such as Central North America could become dust bowls while the likes of Bangladesh could simply drown. Rising sea levels from slowly

melting ice caps would be disastrous for low-lying countries such as Kiribati and Holland. Furthermore, changing climates may see the shuffling of global plant distributions as they acclimatise to the new weather conditions.

Clearly, by increasing New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions by 6% (Power Madness, Kirsty Hamilton 1993), the growing problem is going to

do anything but improve. We all need to focus on this capitalist stupidity planned for Stratford - letters to newspapers, poster runs and information days, all to get the public informed about an ominous palm that they are probaly unaware of. We helped stop Ngakawau, but the runaway energy carriage is still rolling - let's grind it to a final halt!!



Stefan Fairweather.



Ngakawau Power Scheme turned down

Conservation Minister Denis Hall said yesterday he would bring in legislation to allow the Ngakawau power scheme to proceed.

The hydro scheme north of the West Coast is by a consortium of companies on land for purposes.

Mr Marshall said it involved a lake more than 2000 m deep, only way for

ment to proceed would be through special legislation removing that land from the provisions of the Conservation Act. The plan species as well as kakariki, ruru, grey warbler.

STOP PRESS

DAM STOPPED BUT ACTIVIST CAMP STILL ON....

We've stopped the dam! Mounting public pressure led to government decision to cancel the massive project, but there are still many other power stations in the pipeline.

An activists camp will still be on, lower key, lower cost and back to basic campaigning, activism and energy. Many gazette of the ecology at Ngakawau. — NZPA

..so 40 people gathered in the Canterbury sun on the Banks peninsular, under the watchful gaze of the Port Hills for three days of non stop talking, celebrating the halting of the Ngakawau dam, focusing on energy issues, future actions, socializing and great food!

Friday evening was a chance to hear from the Buller Conservation Group that had helped organise the weekend in Ngakawau, which ended up being cancelled. The insights into being a minority group with views so opposed by the majority of the community (ie conservation) along with the possible violence and tension that we may have struck if the weekend had gone ahead was chilling. The dam is still a hot issue with a active pro dam movement churning out teeshirts and stickers - so we must be vigilant incase Downer and Co and Buller Electricity approach the government after the elections.

Saturday was full of skill sessions: Campaigning skills with Moana Cole, Allan Cumming and Nicky Hager:

- * be careful not to burn out
- * take time to plan an action (the ploughshares action Moana Cole took part in took a year to plan) and have a longterm goal that is achievable
- * think of all the possible outcomes and hurdles and talk about how to deal with them (court or jail time, fines, police violence)
- * Local support is critical ie having support at Ngakawau for the national campaign against the Ngakawau dam

Calling all Sleeping Hot Frogs!!

At the Energy and Activism Weekend in August, members of SEAN (the Student Environmental Action Network) discussed the future of the SEAN's newsletter, HOT FROGS. It was suggested that rather than have 2 national network newsletters going at once, it may be better to include Hot Frogs as part of each AYN instead. We would like to know what SEAN members think of this idea (and AYN'ers too!). Please write and tell us and your local SEAN contacts about how you feel on this one. In the mean time, Hot Frogs will be "sleeping" over the summer, and will be included in the next AYN's. If SEAN wants, it will become independent again in 1994.

- * develop a support network if you plan to do an action ie friends for emotional support, safe houses and food, financial support, media/publicity for your cause
- * Develop friends within media, police liaison (?), civil servants - many who may give valuable information or machinery ie photocopier or toll calls but cannot offer physical assistance
- * Research is vitally important and can be Fun! Look to old campaigns for ideas and use the official information act if you are not getting the full story.
- * the opposite of truth is not lies, but myth

Kirsty Hamilton talked on the energy issue and the continual threat of more power stations. SEAN will be continuing to challenge some of these, especially the gas fired power station at Stratford.

There were various times for SEAN, AYN and women to gather and talk during Saturday.

Cybele Locke ran a dynamic workshop on Aotearoa Youth Network:

- * a vital newsletter to spread information to youth
- * we must all write articles and also give financial support to it
- * it is a powerful vehicle to tell the "real news" and not allow our voice to be quelled.

The far too early (8.00am!!) Student Environment Action Network meeting powered through the main issues SEAN is facing including the future of the Hot Frog (SEAN newsletter), a new national coordinator and a national gathering in February (the minutes are published further on).

There was plenty of time for talking, cups of tea and biscuits and some took off to explore the incredible shingle beach at Birdlings flat.

The evening film was "Patu!", police violence, maori justice and non violent/direct action, campaigning and speaking out about what you feel is important at its best. Disturbing and shocking movie that left us all talking.

Sundays skill sessions on Non violence direct action by Allan Cumming focused on the strength of using non violent actions to challenge the status quo.

*The treat of violence underpins our society and this is used to maintain "order". The state tries to make non violence invisible and make people believe that violence is the way to achieve change and peace. This makes weapons, military spending, the army and police justifiable

* we must plan for success as well as failure and any possible backlash from that

* The image that we portray and having humour is critical

* "the point of when you experience the violence indicates how close you are to success"

Spice for the day was with Murray Horton discussing foreign control of Aotearoa. The final session was a spin around the group listing the organisations and campaigns people could become active in. The range and number of events was large and inspiring - so much is happening out there, seeking social change, environmental sensitivity, and justice peacefully.

Into the future: hopefully an AYN gathering in a years time and a SEAN national gathering in February.

Many thanks to Kirsty Hamilton, Buller Conservation Group and Chris Newsam for all their help and heres to the next one!

Melanie Hutton

Dear readers,

As someone who attended the forum Joss Hannah of the Bolshevik Club wrote about in last month's AYN newsletter, I would take issue with his statement that the Bolshevik Club's arguments about pornography were received favourably by many people there. In contrast, I thought they were shown to be pointlessly intellectual and completely out of touch with reality. This group's misunderstanding about pornography is exemplified by the comment in issue 2 of "Bolshevik", their magazine, that pornography "fulfils a social need". The fact that people read pornography could so easily be extended to protect rape and murder from State intervention.

Regardless of the legitimacy of the State we are currently encumbered with, and irrespective of the people who make up our unrepresentative Parliament, most people seek Government involvement in regulating the excessive of the free market. The Bolsheviks would have no State involvement in the pornography industry thus leaving the images of women as subservient sexual playthings of men to control only by Adam Smith's models of supply and demand.

I for one would rather have the, admittedly far less than perfect, Films Videos and Publications Classification Act than have a State that legitimised pornography by refusing to do anything about it. The Bolsheviks' (and coincidentally pornographers') demand for individual freedom ignores the responsibility of the State to ensure women, collectively, can live in an environment that allows them to participate as citizens, not just for the sexual pleasure of men. A State that sanctions pornography, undercover of extreme liberalism or for some other reason, fails to adequately address its citizen's needs.

✉

**Yours in true solidarity,
Alistair**

Election activity gets underway.

While the National Government may well want the election to come and go without much input from the people it will actually end up effecting, it would be a crying shame to let such an opportunity go by.

A collection of people around the country have started running a high visibility campaign involving everything possible to get attention - posters, banners, paint, publicity stunts... AYN does not have a structure to determine whether or not it could, as an entity, participate but everyone in the network is encouraged

to be involved if they want. There are two main themes: the first is promoting MMP and denigrating the First Past the Post system that we have at present, the second is exposing the issues that should be being debated now (similar to the Vote for Real Issues campaign during the Wellington Central By-election).

The latter focus is unashamedly anti-National. We want to expose the failings of the current National policy to make sure the real issues get discussed. However, at the same time, we don't believe that any of the political parties provide solutions to these problems, so we are not promoting any party.

The theme is then: "A vote for National is ..." followed by an exposure of what they are doing (300,000 unemployed, education only for the wealthy, an Americanised health system, poverty because of the benefit cuts, etc). We also want to expose the use of Public Relations to hide all of these issues, and how PR has also been used to paper over all the lies and broken promises over the past 3 years (and before that too).

It is very important that this is a national campaign. If people have ideas for activities, posters or slogans then they need to be nationally circulated. It is far more effective if the same things are appearing throughout the country rather than isolated discontent. Talk to your contact person in your area about this.

We figure that if another party (ie. other than National) cannot offer solutions to what we expose as problems, then they will not benefit from the campaign. In fact they should be tarred with the same brush, especially in conjunction with an MMP campaign wanting accountability from those supposed to represent us.

When this newsletter come out there will only be 4 or 5 weeks until the election on November 6, but the campaign will have been going for about 3 weeks already. If you want to get involved then contact the person in your area listed below.

Auckland: Victoria, ph. 5202282

Hamilton: Dale, ph. 8244480.

Palmerston North: Steve, ph. 3591836.

Wellington: Steve, ph. 3828129.

Christchurch: Hamish, ph. 3481985

Dunedin: Joss, ph. 4777571.

Nationally: Write to Joss, C/- the Web, 111 Moray Place, Dunedin.

Support State Tenants Partial Rent Strike

In Housing New Zealand, the State Owned Enterprise (SOE) responsible for state housing, is run as if it were a privately owned enterprise for profit. It has been forcing state housing tenants to pay a series of rent increases intended to raise their rents to "market rates". These increases and the move to market rents mean the end of affordable housing for low income working class families, the sick, the elderly, single parent families and others on fixed incomes. The Government is destroying the state housing system and intends to sell off the properties, while at the same time lining the pockets of private landlords with government subsidies.

Already, state housing tenants cannot afford these increases, creating a desperate situation where many are forced to choose whether to eat or pay the rent. Many school authorities have already reported an alarming increase in children arriving without lunches, and expect the situation will worsen if the government succeeds in further rent increases. Many elderly tenants already in poor health are being worried into an early grave.

Many state tenants have already fallen into arrears and have been evicted or intimidated out of their homes and forced into temporary emergency housing. But, others have chosen to fight back, and have created the State Housing Action Coalition (SHAC) to organise other state tenants against the rent increases and evictions.

SHAC has been gaining wide support from state tenants through its ongoing organising efforts and readiness to confront the bailiffs and police enforced evictions. An example was the much publicised defence of the Asi family in Auckland, which received massive public support from across the country. With the support of SHAC the Asi family refused to be moved, but instead, after being physically evicted, stayed in a tent on the front lawn of their house. They created a focus for state tenants and their supporters to stand together maintaining around the clock pickets. The longer they stayed the more support they received. Realising this the Government quickly backed down and reinstated the Asi family back in their home.

The successful defence of the Asi family showed that SHAC's decision to call for a Partial Rent Strike of State Housing Tenants to begin on September 1 was well timed. The partial rent strike will mean that on September 1 state housing tenants will begin paying only 25% of their net income in rent. SHAC is aware that the rent strike may provoke the Government to take a variety of repressive measures to intimidate striking tenants, but recognises that there is no other way – *we must make a stand together or fall separately.*

SHAC

Organise a SHAC Solidarity Committee!

To succeed state housing tenants will need all the support we can organise from both state tenants and supporters. SHAC is calling on supporters to organise Solidarity Committees in workplaces, campuses and high schools **NOW!** SHAC can provide speakers, leaflets, stickers, and badges. The purpose of a Solidarity Committee is to:

- ★ Build awareness of the need to support state housing tenants and their partial rent strike by hosting a SHAC speaker, distributing SHAC leaflets, bulletins and passing motions of support through your union or student union.
- ★ Organise financial support through donations from unions and student unions, as well as regular workplace and campus collections and badge sales.
- ★ Mobilise supporters for demonstrations, rallies and defence against evictions.

If you would like more information, or want to organise a Solidarity Committee then contact SHAC:

State Housing Action Coalition
P.O. Box 80-001, Auckland
or phone 09-373 4411

State Housing Tenants Need Your Support!





No "Pope Scope" on Mt. Graham!

In collusion with the University of Arizona, the Vatican is building a telescope on the central sacred mountain (Dził achaa si an or 'big-seated mountain') of the San Carlos Apache people in Arizona, USA. Construction of this project will fragment the unique spruce-fir forest of Mt. Graham's summit and will interfere with the ability of the Apache to continue their traditional religious practices. In the face of years of resistance to the development by environmentalists and Apache spiritual traditionalists, the Vatican has continued its course of ecological destruction and cultural genocide for Mt. Graham. The head of the Vatican Observatory, Father George Coyne, recently wrote: "Environmentalists and native people opposing the telescope have created a kind of religiosity to which I cannot subscribe and which must be suppressed with all the force that we can muster."

Indigenous peoples and organisations, environmentalists, and many others have joined together to protect Dził achaa si an from desecration by the University of Arizona and its 3 European partners - the Vatican Observatory, the Max Planck Institute and the Arcetri Observatory of Florence, Italy.

Sad to say that as of writing the Max Planck telescope and the Vatican telescope construction is continuing. The third telescope planned for Mt. Graham - the \$60 million "Colombus Telescope project" - has not yet been halted and remains as the most expensive monument dedicated to Columbus in the world. However, we have heard reports of several courageous actions in Europe on behalf of Mt. Graham and the San Carlos Apache. To name a few: a protest vigil during high mass at the Cologne Dome Cathedral; a 3-story banner unfolded on a building of the Max Planck Institute; a wild rally in London by Earth First!; a street theatre

action at a Belgian cathedral (complete with a real bulldozer). This is great and it is much appreciated to see and hear that we are working together in the defence of the sacredness of Mother Earth and the religious freedoms of her children.



Source: ASEED, c/- Asian Students Association

Coming in the next issue of
AYN:

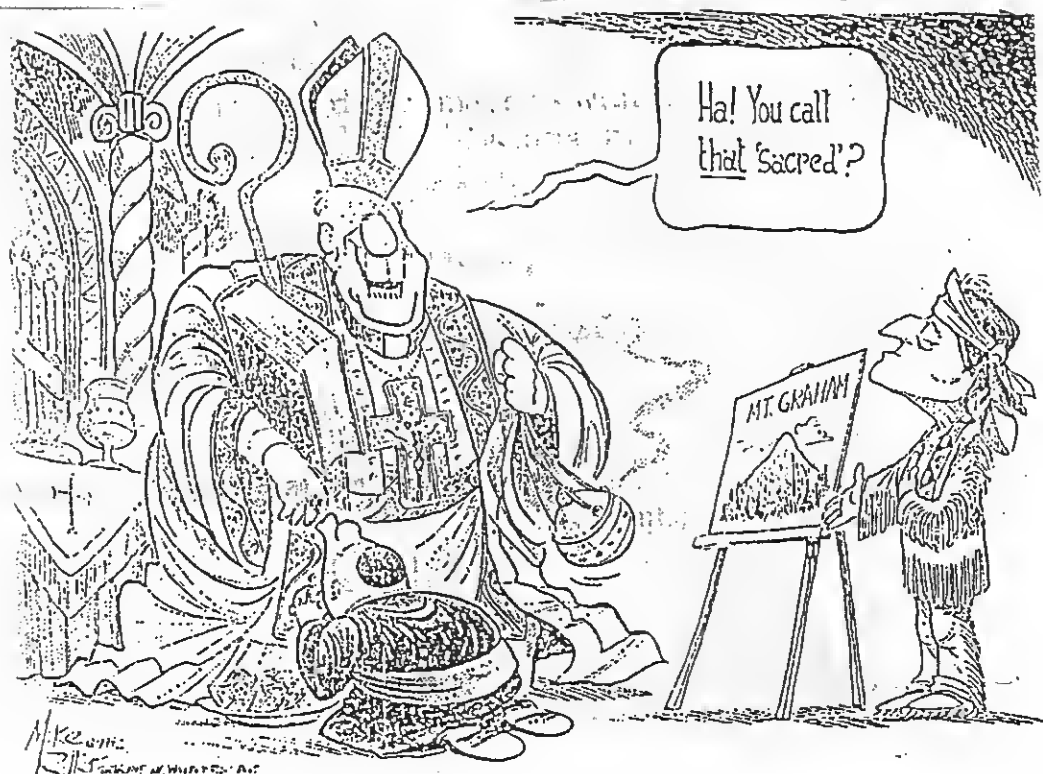
**Students protest against
fees at Otago - and Police
Riot.**

Anti-Racism in Aotearoa

A response to CAFCA.

**Amnesty International
broadcast from Women's
Suffrage Day.**

And lots more!!



National's decent society gets even less decent.

Hopefully students have made enough noise about the ridiculous means-testing of allowances that makes 24 year old students dependant upon parents for survival so that everyone knows about it.

The situation for a student in Aotearoa is that until you are 25 you are means-tested on your parents income and have your allowance reduced if they are deemed "wealthy" by having a combined income above \$28,000 (\$28,000 is the average wage for 1 person!).

This ridiculous system has caused considerable hardship for students whose parents are unable or unwilling for them to participate in tertiary study despite their "wealth". One of the largest problems has been with students having to be dependant on a parent they have never known or had contact with - long since departed the scene and quite frankly not interested. This person needs to be contacted so that the bureaucracy can be assured that their income is no longer included. Stiff shit if you don't even know where they live!

This "student problem" however is about to become a problem directly affecting all young people who aren't in paid employment. The Department of Social Welfare is currently "investigating youth benefits with a view to getting rid of the anomaly between youth unemployment benefit and student allowances" - ie. introducing means testing to youth benefits too. The potential effects of such a policy would be catastrophic.

The problems outlined above are obvious. Less obvious is the effect that any targeting of benefits has. We are labelled as "poor" if we are getting anything. The wealthy fat politicians, who actually make the decisions, see no need for a benefit that they are not eligible for. We are given handouts because we are poor or because we are too useless to get jobs rather than provided with an income because the State has a moral obligation to provide for all its citizens.

Initial requests for information on these proposed changes have been fobbed off as the National Government would rather this was well under wraps

until after the election. Although some unguarded moments have had politicians defending the policy in preparation. It is now being pursued through the Ombudsperson's Office.

The Labour Party's leader Mike Moore, pretending to be a potential Prime Minister, proposes no unemployment benefit at all for people under the age of 20. It's difficult to know which would be worst, this policy or the Nat's one, and a frightening thought when even the policy we get told about is unacceptable.

So what can we do? Sitting back and complaining will get us nowhere. The groups prepared to lobby on behalf of young people will only be effective if young people are actively and openly backing such lobbyists with action. Start making links between groups and with people who are prepared to do something about this. Use this election campaign to show the State that

we are a group with power because we are prepared to do things. Start making rumblings now and be ready to do more when the time requires it.

 Alistair

Quotes about AYN

"AYN is the base from which many ideas are launched and are executed."

"AYN is a support network for people to feel safe to speak out alternatively."

"Empowerment is needed and can be done by AYN. It is creating a brighter future for ourselves."



Coming Events:

Labour Weekend, National Peace Workshops, Dunedin. Contact Allan Cummings, 20 Gillespie St., Dunedin.

From November 15 - week of education and education on GATT. Write to GATT Watchdog Group, PO Box 1905, Otatuahi / Christchurch.

Last weekend of November, National Bisexual Conference. Write to C/- Lynsey Mcateer, 53 Rugby St., Wellington.

December 10 Global Action Day on CO2 emissions. Contact Lars Igeland or Eva Anderson, Miloforbundet, Sweden. Fax 46-31-119717.

January 28-30. Protest at Waihopai Spy Base. Contact Anti Bases Campaign, Box 2258 Christchurch (general camp) or 454 Hagely Ave Christchurch (Women's camp) for info.

Some Contacts:

Amnesty International Women's Network: write to Lynsey Mcateer, 53 Rugby St. CHCH.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: 35 Rata St., CHCH.

Campaign against Foreign Control of Aotearoa: PO Box

2258, CHCH.

Building Our Own Future: C/- Maxine Gaye, 54 Manson St., Palm Nth.

Auckland Unemployed Worker's Rights Centre: 33 Wyndham St., Auckland.

AUN local contacts:

Auckland - Victoria St. John. Phone 520-2282, or 2/31 Benson Rd.

Hamilton - Dale Frew. Phone 8244480.

Palmerston North - Steve Collett. Phone 3591836.

Wellington - Alistair Shaw, 20F Portland Crescent. Phone 4711862.

Dunedin - Cybele Locke, 17 Blacks Rd. Phone 473-0684.



PROTEST AT WAIHOPAI

CLOSE DOWN SECRET SPYING OPERATIONS



Aotearoa Youth Network

111 Moary Place

Dunedin

Corso